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## Killing creates serious tests

(Editorial, [Irish News](#))

One of the few indisputable facts arising from the murder of Paul Quinn is that his life was taken in an act which displayed a shocking level of savagery and ruthlessness.

It is difficult to comprehend the sheer inhumanity of a group of men who can beat another man to death.

This was an exceptionally cold-blooded, premeditated crime. The 21-year-old south Armagh man was lured to an outhouse in Castleblayney, Co Monaghan on Saturday, where a gang of masked men was waiting to inflict a horrific fate.

His family has alleged that members of the Provisional IRA were responsible for his death – an accusation which has serious implications for the leadership of Sinn Féin and the power-sharing administration.

For their part, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness have condemned the murder and strongly denied any republican involvement.

They also called on people to come forward to the police – which is a considerable advance on how such a situation would have been handled in the past – although it remains to be seen how many will heed their call.

The DUP appears to be taking a cautious approach, which is another sign of how matters have changed in recent months and shows a reluctance to jeopardise the alliance with Sinn Féin.

As well as providing a major test of the power-sharing structures, this dreadful murder also presents a challenge to the police forces on both sides of the border, which must demonstrate a high level of cooperation in solving this crime.

It is important that all relevant information regarding those behind this killing is disclosed as soon as possible.

What must not happen is that those responsible for the murder of Paul Quinn evade justice.

October 24, 2007

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